

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer accessible medium encoded with instructions which, when executed:
 - 5 replicate a checkpoint segment from a first local storage of a first node to at least one other node, wherein the checkpoint segment is stored into the first local storage by an application, and wherein the checkpoint segment comprises a state of the application; and
 - 10 load a copy of the checkpoint segment from the at least one other node into a second local storage of a second node responsive to a request from the second node to load the copy, wherein the second node is to execute the application.
- 15 2. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the checkpoint segment is identified by a checkpoint segment name that is unique within a cluster including the first node and the second node.
- 20 3. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node comprises two or more other nodes.
- 25 4. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the request to load the copy is issued by the application executing on the second node.
5. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the request to load the copy is issued by an agent that monitors the application on behalf of a cluster server.
6. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed, retrieve the copy from one of the at least one other node responsive to the

request.

7. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node is configured to load the copy into a global storage, and wherein the instructions,
5 when executed, retrieve the copy from the global storage responsive to the request.

8. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed, replicate the checkpoint segment by performing at least:

10 reading the checkpoint segment from the first local storage of the first node; and

transmitting the checkpoint segment to the at least one other node.

9. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when
15 executed:

receive a retrieval request in the at least one other node; and

transmit the copy to a source of the retrieval request.

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10. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed:

receive the checkpoint segment from the first node in the at least one other node;

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and

store the checkpoint segment in the at least one other node.

11. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other

node is configured to load the copy into a global storage, and wherein the instructions, when executed:

receive the checkpoint segment from the first node; and

store the checkpoint segment in the global storage.

12. The computer accessible medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node is not capable of executing the application.

13. A method comprising:

replicating a checkpoint segment from a first local storage of a first node to at least one other node, wherein the checkpoint segment is stored into the first local storage by an application, and wherein the checkpoint segment comprises a state of the application; and

loading a copy of the checkpoint segment from the at least one other node into a first local storage of a second node responsive to a request from the second node to load the copy, wherein the second node is to execute the application.

14. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the at least one other node comprises two or more other nodes.

15. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising issuing the request to load the copy by the application executing on the second node.

16. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising issuing the request to load the

copy by an agent that monitors the application on behalf of a cluster server.

17. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising retrieving the copy from one of the at least one other node responsive to the request.

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18. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the at least one other node is configured to load the copy into a global storage, the method further comprising retrieving the copy from the global storage responsive to the request.

10 19. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein replicating the checkpoint segment comprises:

reading the checkpoint segment from the first local storage of the first node; and

15 transmitting the checkpoint segment to the at least one other node.

20. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

receiving a retrieval request in the at least one other node; and

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transmitting the copy to a source of the retrieval request.

21. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

25 receiving the checkpoint segment from the first node in the at least one other node; and

storing the checkpoint segment in the at least one other node.

22. The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

receiving the checkpoint segment from the first node; and

5 storing the checkpoint segment in a global storage.

23. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the at least one other node is not capable of executing the application.

10 24. A cluster comprising a plurality of nodes, wherein a first node of the plurality of nodes is configured to replicate a checkpoint segment from a first local storage of the first node to at least one other node of the plurality of nodes, wherein the checkpoint segment is stored into the first local storage by an application executing on the first node, and wherein the checkpoint segment comprises a state of the application, and wherein a
15 second node of the plurality of nodes is configured to load a copy of the checkpoint segment from the at least one other node into a second local storage of the second node responsive to a request to load the copy, wherein the second node is to execute the application.

20 25. The cluster as recited in claim 24 wherein the at least one other node is not capable of executing the application.